154. Disabilities of the depressed classes in the matter of getting scholarships for educational purposes and in the matter of Government appointments.

MR. POIKAYIL YOHANNAN (*Nominated*), who made his representation in Malayalam, said that his community could not afford to give higher education to their children. Their poverty stood in the way. They were highly thankful to the Government for the full fee concession allowed in the English and the Vernacular schools. But that was not sufficient to advance education among the members of the community.

It would appear that scholarships were given for educational purposes to pupils belonging to his community. But it was not known what amount was given for the purpose, how many of the pupils who were in receipt of it were benefited by it, etc. There should be a rule that scholarships should be awarded only through the representative of the community in the Assembly.

The Government were spending large sums of money on such departments as Education, Medical, Sanitary and the P. W. D., from which there was no income, but which were meant for the welfare of the people. Similarly, the Government should spend a small amount for the educational advancement of the depressed classes. If the Government could not render monetary help for the purpose, it would be sufficient if each family was given 10 acres of land for the education of the children of the family.

The Government should select from among the students belonging to the community one or two hundred pupils and should meet all expenditure in connection with their education in the collegiate classes and in classes VIII and IX. After the completion of their education, other batches of students should be similarly selected and educated.

The members of the community are proposing to start a private English school. The Government should grant gratis the timber required for putting up a building for the conversion of the school into a High School.

The percentage of marks prescribed for securing a pass in the examinations should be reduced from 35 to 30 in the case of the pupils belonging to the community. The want of two or three marks should not be a bar for giving promotion to such pupils. There were many pupils belonging to the community who had failed twice or thrice in the Vernacular School Leaving Examination. Such men should be entertained in the lowest ranks in all the departments.

Students who had studied up to the fifth and sixth classes should be admitted to the School of Arts. At least two men each from the community should be appointed in all the hospitals under the Medical Department. Similarly, the subordinate appointments in the *pakuthi* cutcherries should be given to the young men of the community.

The members of the community should be exempted from the rule regarding age bar for entertainment in public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ പറയേണ്ടതായ സംഗതി വളരെ ബലമായി ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഏതു സംഗതിയും വളരെ ബലമായിട്ടു പറയുമ്പോൾ സല്പം കൂടുതൽ പറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതു് സാധാരണമാണു്. നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിനും അതുപോലുള്ള മറ്റു സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ട സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു് നിങ്ങൾതന്നെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതിൽനിന്നും എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു് നിങ്ങൾക്കനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ ശരിയായി നടക്കുന്നില്ലയോ എന്നാണു്. നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള പത്തിരുന്നൂറു് കുട്ടികളെ അങ്ങേ അറ്റംവരെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു നിങ്ങൾപറഞ്ഞു. ആണ്ടുതോറും ഓരോ ക്ലാസിലും നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള പത്തുകുട്ടികൾ വീതം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ എല്ലാംകൂടി ൨൦൦ കുട്ടികളോളം വരും. അതിൽ കുറവാണോ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളതു് എന്നു എനിക്കു സംശയവും തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്.

ഫീസ് സൌജന്യം, സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു് മുതലായവകയ്ക്കുള്ള റൂൾസ് (Rules) ഒന്നുകൂടി പരിഷ്കരിക്കുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ പരിഷ്കാരം നടത്തുമ്പോൾ, ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായംകൂടി പരിഗണിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാം.

അധഃകൃതർക്കു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി നിങ്ങൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ വിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ പലതും പറയുകയും അതിലേക്കു മറുപടി പറയുകയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു. അധഃകൃതർക്കു കുടിപാർപ്പിനു സൌജന്യമായി സ്ഥലംകൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ബദ്ധശ്രദ്ധന്മാരായി ഇരിക്കയുമാണു്. റിസർവ്വ് ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽ (Reserve forest) നിന്നും കൃഷിക്കുപയോഗമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വേർപെടുത്തി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നകാലത്തു് അതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ശതമാനം അധഃകൃതർക്കായി നീക്കിവയ്ക്കാൻ ഏർപ്പാടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

അധഃകൃതരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, പുരുവൽ പതിവു് എന്നീവിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിനു ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാകത്തക്കവണ്ണം നടക്കയും ചെയ്യും.

[Your representation was couched in strong language and was consequently not free from some exaggeration. You admitted that ome educational concessions were already enjoyed by your community. I doubt whether the existing concessions are fully availed of. There are

even now more than 20 pupils of your community in each class and there is therefore no difficulty in 200 pupils completing their education. The rules relating to fee concessions and scholarships are under revision. Your suggestions in the matter will also be considered. Previous members spoke about the assignment of land to depressed classes and I have replied to them. The officers are devoting sustained attention to the grant of lands to the depressed classes. A percentage of the lands disafforested from Reserves has been set apart for registry to depressed classes]

155. Problem of the backward communities.

SREEMATHI CODIVEETIL C. RUDRANI (*Nominated*) first spoke about the disabilities of the depressed classes in the matter of public service. In the case of backward communities, efficiency should not be made the criterion for entertainment in public service. The principle of communal representation should be the guiding factor in making appointments in public service, and the Government should remove the disabilities suffered by the depressed classes by the liberal entertainment of the qualified members of the backward communities in public service on the basis of communal representation. The proposal to appoint a committee to go into the question of communal representation in public service, about which mention was made in the Dewan's opening address, was a source of great consolation to the depressed classes, for which they were highly thankful to the Government. The member hoped that at least fifty per cent. of the appointments in State service would be reserved for the depressed class communities.

The majority of the labourers of the country belonged to the depressed classes. In the interests of the labouring classes and for their advancement, it was desirable to fix, by legislation, the wages of the labourers, their labour and hours of work, to the satisfaction of both the labourers and the capitalists, as had been done in Europe and other civilised countries.

A main disability of the depressed classes was their poverty. This was a great bar to their spiritual and material advancement. A sure remedy to remove this disability and to advance their social and economical condition was to popularise the co-operative movement among them. A mere registering of a number of co-operative credit societies like the existing Araya societies, would not solve the problem. Most of the depressed class people were illiterate and ignorant of the principles of co-operation. Considerable propaganda work should be done to create an enthusiasm among the members of the depressed classes in co-operative work. Arrangements should be made for series of lectures on co-operation being delivered by the Honorary Organisers of the Co-operative Department or by the Protector of Depressed Classes or his assistants, as was done in Cochin. Along with this, efforts should be made to popularise cottage industries among them. Attempts should be made not to increase the number of societies among them, but to see